

Message Text

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SUBJECT: RUBBER - 20TH MEETING OF INTERNATIONAL RUBBER
STUDY GROUP (IRSG) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. IRSG HELD 20TH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MONDAY, APRIL 3RD, 1978. DISCUSSION OF FINANCE ISSUES TOOK UP MAJORITY OF MEETING. OVERALL FINANCIAL POSITION OF GROUP SOMEWHAT BETTER THAN LAST YEAR AS A RESULT OF SIGNATURE OF HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT WITH HMG WHICH ACCORDS EXEMPTION FROM U.K. TAXES TO THE ORGANIZATION AND ITS PERSONNEL. INCREASED PRICES OF PUBLICATIONS ARE ALSO TO RESULT IN HIGHER REVENUES. SALARY ADJUSTMENTS PUTTING GROUP ON U.N. SALARY SCALE AGREED BY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. THIS WILL RESULT IN EFFECTIVE INCREASES TO STAFF MEMBERS (WHO PREVIOUSLY WERE PAID IN ACCORDANCE WITH BRITISH CIVIL SERVICE SCALES), BUT AGAIN DUE TO THE TAX SAVINGS FROM THE HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT TOTAL BUDGET FOR 1978/79 WILL BE 106,000 POUNDS STERLING WHICH IS 11,000 POUNDS STERLING UNDER 1977/78 BUDGET. THIS IS A RATHER SUBSTANTIAL ACCOMPLISHMENT IN VIEW OF U.K. INFLATION RATES AND OTHER COST FACTORS, AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS WERE GENEROUS IN THEIR PRAISE FOR IRSG BUDGETARY ECONOMIES WHICH HELPED ACHIEVE THIS RESULT. OVERALL BUDGETARY IMPACT REMAINS IN THE BLACK.

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2. COMPLETE SALARY ADJUSTMENT FIGURES WILL BE FORWARDED BY AIRGRAM.

3. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE APPROVED A RESOLUTION ON THE ACQUISITION OF NEW QUARTERS FOR THE ORGANIZATION. THE RESOLUTION MUST BE RATIFIED BY THE IRSG ASSEMBLY TO BE

HELD IN WASHINGTON IN JUNE. IF ALL GOES WELL, THE LONG-NEEDED MOVE TO NEW ACCOMMODATIONS WILL TAKE PLACE IN APPROXIMATELY ONE MONTH. AS NOTED IN A-806 (1977), PRESENT QUARTERS ARE GROSSLY INADEQUATE.

4. PREPARATIONS FOR THE WASHINGTON ASSEMBLY IN JUNE ARE GOING FORWARD AT A REASONABLY GOOD PACE. SECGEN BATEMAN EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF CLOSER LIAISON WITH DEPARTMENT IN REMAINING MONTH BEFORE THE MEETING.

5. THE MARITIME TRANSPORT OF INTERNATIONAL RUBBER COMMITTEE WHICH MET ON 23 FEBRUARY WAS SUMMED UP AS UNSATISFACTORY. CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION OVER THE TERMS OF REFERENCE AS PROPOSED BY SINGAPORE FOR THAT COMMITTEE RESULTED IN NO DECISION. THIS IS ANOTHER ITEM WHICH MUST BE DEALT WITH BY THE ASSEMBLY IN JUNE.

6. COMMENT: THE HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT WITH HMG HAS RESULTED IN THE ELIMINATION OF A MAJOR TAX BURDEN ON BOTH EMPLOYEES AND THE IRSG. THIS ALLOWED THE ORGANIZATION TO INCREASE SALARIES SUBSTANTIALLY FOR BOTH STAFF AND PROFESSIONAL LEVEL CATEGORIES IN THE CONTEXT OF A SMALLER OVERALL BUDGET FOR THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR. THE MOVE TO NEW HEADQUARTERS IS ALREADY BUDGETED FROM RESERVES SO THE FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE ORGANIZATION REMAINS GOOD, WITH 50,000 POUNDS STERLING RESERVE
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PROJECTED FOR JUNE 30, 1978. THIS REMARKABLE PERFORMANCE FOR AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION IN THE INFLATIONARY U.K. ECONOMY IS LIKELY TO BE A ONE TIME PERFORMANCE SINCE COST INCREASES WILL EAT UP THE REMAINDER OF THE SAVINGS BY THE TIME THE NEXT BUDGET IS PREPARED. THE JUNE ASSEMBLY OF THE GROUP WILL HAVE TO MAKE THE FINAL DECISIONS ON THE EXECUTIVE BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS, BUT THE ROUTE IS WELL PAVED IN MOST AREAS. SOME DISCUSSION TOOK PLACE ON DR. BATEMAN'S SUCCESSOR, DURING WHICH IT WAS NOTED DR. BATEMAN MAY BE WILLING TO EXTEND ONE ADDITIONAL YEAR ON HIS THREE YEAR CONTRACT WITH THE ORGANIZATION.

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